

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-36 are pending in this application.

In the outstanding Official Action, Claims 1-3, 5-7, 15, 17, 19, 21, 22, 25, 26, 29, 30, 33, and 34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by Horie et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,720,997, hereinafter “Horie”); Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Horie; Claims 8-14, 16, 18, 20, 23, 24, 27, 28, 31, 32, 35, and 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Horie in view of Fukushima et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,903,303, herein “Fukushima”).

With respect to the rejection of Claim 1 as anticipated by Horie, that rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites, “wherein said operation instruction signals include translation instructions input *by a user* to move a first image with respect to a second image.”

In contrast, Horie discloses an image generating apparatus where partial images are pasted together based *only* on calculations done by the apparatus, *not based on user input*. For example, Horie describes that partial images G_A to G_D are compared and transform amounts for each image are calculated by the apparatus.¹ Thus, creation of the whole image is not based on any user input. Further, the flow charts of Horie in Figures 7 and 22-26 do not include any step of receiving user input, nor does the description of these flow charts include any description of user input. Finally, the illustrations and block diagrams in Figures 1, 2, and 6 of Horie do not show any input means for inputting a translational command, such as a mouse or joystick.

¹See Horie, column 8, lines 11-35.

The outstanding Office Action cited column 11, line 26 to column 12, line 14 as describing this element.² However, this portion of Horie **only describes automatic calculation of the image positions**, not translation instructions *input by a user* to determine the image positions. For example, column 11, lines 55-67 of Horie state:

In this embodiment, the combination positions are **determined by geometrically transforming the respective partial images based on the pre-sensed image and the perspective image distortions are corrected**. In this way, the reduction in quality of the combined whole image is suppressed without making the apparatus more complicated, larger and more expensive. Accordingly, **the matching calculating circuit 234 calculates, for each partial image, the transform amount of the image data for coinciding the partial image with the image in the corresponding position of the enlarged image**, and the calculation result is sent to a geometric image transforming circuit 235 and an image combining circuit 236.

(Emphasis added.)

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Horie does not describe “said operation instruction signals include **translation instructions input by a user** to move a first image with respect to a second image,” as recited in Claim 1. Since Horie does not teach each and every element of Claim 1, Claim 1 (and Claims 2-7, 21, and 22 dependent therefrom) is not anticipated by Horie and is patentable thereover.

As Claims 15, 17, and 19 recite similar elements to Claim 1, Claims 15, 17, and 19 (and Claims 25, 26, 29, 30, 33, and 34 dependent therefrom) are patentable over Horie for at least the reasons described above with respect to Claim 1.

With respect to the rejection of Claims 8, 16, 18, and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Horie in view of Fukushima, it is respectfully submitted that Fukushima also does not teach or suggest “operation instruction signals include **translation instructions input by a user** to move a first image with respect to a second image,” nor does the outstanding Office Action cite any portion of Fukushima as describing this feature.

²See the outstanding Office Action at page 4, lines 3-4.

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Consequently, it is further respectfully submitted that Claims 8, 16, 18, and 20 (and Claims 9-14 and 23, 24, 27, 28, 31, 32, 35, and 36 dependent therefrom) patentably define over Horie and Fukushima.

Accordingly, no further issues are believed to be outstanding and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 25,599

Edward Tracy
Registration No. 47,998

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)

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